## CLAIMS OF THE INVENTION

## I CLAIM:

- 1. A food preparation appliance comprising a base unit and a container in which food to be prepared is placed, said container including a base and at least one upwardly extending wall, said base and at least one wall defining an interior of said container, a helical blade positioned in said interior of said container for moving material placed in the container, said base unit including an inductive heating element, said inductive heating element positioned below a generally planar support on which said container may be placed and said base unit including a rotational drive mechanism, said rotational drive mechanism adapted to rotate said helical blade.
- 2. The food preparation appliance in accordance with Claim 1 including a swiping blade positioned radially outward of said helical blade and rotatable with said helical blade, said swiping blade engaging said at least one upwardly extending wall.
- 3. The food preparation appliance in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said rotational drive mechanism comprises a motor driving a drive element, said drive element having an aperture therein for accepting an end of a spindle, said spindle coupled to said helical blade.
- 4. The food preparation appliance in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said generally planar support has an aperture therein through which a drive element connecting said helical blade and rotational drive mechanism may extend.

- 5. The food preparation appliance in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said base unit includes a controller controlling the operation of said induction heating unit and said rotational drive mechanism.
- 6. A method of preparing food with a food preparation appliance including a base unit including an inductive heating unit and a container having a mixing blade located therein comprising:

accepting user input regarding a speed of said mixing blade;

accepting user input regarding a level of heating to be provided with said heating unit;

rotating said mixing blade within said container in accordance with said selected speed; and

heating said container with said inductive heating unit in accordance with said selected level of heating.

- 7. The method in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said food preparation appliance includes a thermistor and including the steps of providing container temperature data and adjusting said heating of said container based upon said temperature data.
- 8. The method in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said food preparation appliance includes a memory storing a plurality of mixing blade speed and heating level information data sets, and wherein said steps of accepting user input comprise accepting an input regarding a selection of one of said information data sets.

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- 9. The method in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said food preparation appliance includes a memory and said steps of accepting user input comprise transferring blade speed and heating level information to said memory.
- 10. The method in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said step of transferring comprises sending said information over a telecommunication link from a remote source to said memory.
- 11. The method in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said step of transferring comprises reading said information from a printed card.
  - 12. A food preparation appliance comprising:

a pot, said pot having a base and an upwardly extending wall forming a generally circular periphery;

a helical blade located in said pot, said helical blade mounted to a first end of a spindle, a second end of said spindle connected to a first end of a connecting rod, a second end of said connecting rod extending outwardly from said base of said pot;

a swiping blade connected to said helical blade, said swiping blade located radially outward of said helical blade and engaging an inner surface of said wall of said pot;

a base unit, said base unit including a housing supporting a mounting ring, a plate supported by said mounting ring, said plate having an aperture therein through which said connecting rod extends when said pot is placed on a top surface of plate, an inductive heating element positioned adjacent a bottom surface of said plate, a motor in driving relation with a drive member, said drive member including a recessed portion for accepting a mating portion of said second end of said connecting rod, and a control unit, said control unit including one or more controls for accepting input from a user, said control unit operably associated with said motor for controlling said motor and said inductive heating element for controlling the operation of said heating element.

- 13. The food preparation appliance in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said motor has an output shaft with a driving gear thereon and said drive member has a driven gear connected thereto which is driven by said driving gear.
- 14. The food preparation appliance in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said housing defines a control panel and one or more of said controls are located at said control panel.
- 15. The food preparation appliance in accordance with Claim 12 wherein a frame having a top portion and a bottom portion extends from said helical blade, said swiping blade connected to said frame.
- 16. The food preparation appliance in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said bottom portion of said frame includes a slot for accepting a first end of said blade and said top portion of said frame includes an aperture for accepting a fastener connecting a second end of said blade thereto.

17. The food preparation appliance in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said helical blade has a top end having a passage there through and including a nut, said nut having a threaded portion for extending through said passage into engagement with said first end of said spindle whereby said helical blade is removably connected to said spindle.